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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/086,820 07/02/93 PUREVAL

T 43853USA1D

EXAMINER  
BENSTON JR, W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1502

DATE MAILED: 05/16/94

15M1/0516  
3M OFFICE OF INTELLECTUAL PROP. COUNSEL  
P.O. BOX 33427  
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

**Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
- ☐ Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
- ☐ Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
- ☐

**Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION**

- ☒ Claims 1-46 are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claims 1-17 have been cancelled.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.
- ☒ Claims 18-46 are rejected.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are objected to.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
- ☐ This application has been filed with Informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
- ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
- ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).
- ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

Art Unit: 1502

15.

Receipt of proamendment and IDS dated July 2, 1993 is acknowledged.

16.

Claims 18-46 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 5,225,183. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it is evident that the claimed inventive concept and claims are drawn from US Patent 5,225,183.

17.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection is a judicially established doctrine based upon public policy and is primarily intended to prevent prolongation of the patent term by prohibiting claims in a second patent not patentably distinct from claims in a first patent. *In re Vogel*, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970). A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(b) would overcome an actual or provisional rejection on this ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(d).

Serial Number: 08/086,820

-3-

Art Unit: 1502

18.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William E. Benston, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.

*WES* William E. Benston, Jr.:cb  
May 10, 1994

THURMAN K. PASE  
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 1502